

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub A¹
1. A radial tire comprising a steel cord
reinforced carcass ply and an apex of a composition
comprised of, based on 100 parts by weight rubber, (A)
about 80 to about 97 parts by weight of at least one
rubber selected from the group consisting of natural
rubber, synthetic cis 1,4-polyisoprene rubber, ^{2nd} cis
1,4-polybutadiene rubber; and (B) about 3 to about 20
parts by weight of a trans 1,4-polybutadiene rubber
having at least a 65 percent trans 1,4-content.

2. The tire of claim 1 wherein said apex
composition is comprised of, based on 100 parts by
weight rubber, (A) about 90 to about 95 parts by
weight of at least one of said diene rubbers, and (B)
about 5 to about 10 parts by weight of said trans 1,4-
polybutadiene rubber.

Sub A²
3. The rubber tire of claim 1 wherein said
trans 1,4-polybutadiene rubber has a 65 to about a 90
percent trans 1,4-content, a 5 to about a 20 percent
1,2-content and a 2 to about an 15 percent cis 1,4-
content and, in its uncured state, a first major
melting point in the range of about 35°C to about 45°C
and a second minor melting point in the range of about
55°C to about 65°C.

Sub D² 4. The tire of claim 3 wherein, from about 80 to
about 97 parts by weight is natural rubber.

Sub A³ 5. A method of preparing a pneumatic rubber
tire having a steel cord reinforced carcass ply and an
apex which comprises shaping and curing an uncured
pneumatic rubber tire in a mold by pressing said tire
outwardly against a mold surface under conditions of

*Sub A3
cont'd*

heat and pressure to cause at least the tread rubber of said tire to flow and cure against said mold surface, the improvement comprising the use of a rubber composition in the apex comprised of, based on 5 100 parts by weight rubber, (A) about 80 to about 97 parts by weight of at least one diene rubber selected from the group consisting of natural rubber, synthetic cis 1,4-polyisoprene rubber, cis 1,4-polybutadiene rubber; and (B) about 3 to about 20 parts by weight of 10 a trans 1,4-polybutadiene rubber having at least 65 percent trans 1,4-content.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein said apex rubber composition is comprised of, based on 100 parts 15 by weight rubber, (A) about 90 to about 95 parts by weight of at least one of said diene rubbers, and (B) about 5 to about 10 parts by weight of said trans 1,4-polybutadiene rubber.

Sub A4

20 7. The method of claim 5 wherein said trans 1,4-polybutadiene rubber has a 65 to about a 90 percent trans 1,4-content, a 5 to about a 20 percent 1,2-content and a 2 to about a 15 percent cis 1,4-content and, in its uncured state, a first major 25 melting point in the range of about 35°C to about 45°C and a second minor melting point in the range of about 55°C to about 65°C.

Sub D4

30 8. The method of claim 5 wherein from about 80 to about 97 parts by weight is natural rubber.

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